

Tom Cole became the Representative for Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District in January 2003. Since that time he has been an advocate for a strong national defense, a defender of the interests of small business and taxpayers, a proponent of education at all levels and a leader on issues dealing with Native Americans and tribal governments. In addition, Cole was recently dubbed "one of the sharpest minds in the House" by *Time Magazine*.

In 2009 Cole was appointed to one of the only two available Republican seats on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. Cole is Oklahoma's sole appropriator from either legislative branch or political party. He serves on three Appropriations Subcommittees: Interior and Environment, Labor/HHS/Education and Legislative Branch.

Tom Cole is a fifth generation Oklahoman and an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. Before serving in the U.S. Congress, he served Oklahoma as a State Senator and Secretary of State. He and his wife, Ellen, have one son and reside in Moore, Oklahoma.